



MAY 2, 2007

## *Hispanic Community Leaders from 38 States, Puerto Rico, and D.C. Join United States Senators to Examine National Policy Issues*

Due to the active participation of more than 300 talented leaders from across the country, the National Hispanic Leadership Summit on March 20-21, 2007, in Washington, D.C. was a great success. As Congress deliberates key legislation, outstanding individuals who were nominated by members of Congress provided feedback during the dynamic policy program featuring Senate moderators and other distinguished speakers.



*U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez listens to questions and comments from the audience after his keynote remarks.*

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez delivered keynote remarks on policies to allow workers, consumers, and businesses to keep growing the U.S. economy. Dr. Emilio Gonzalez, Director of Citizenship and Immigration Services, spoke on immigration service improvements. Sara Martinez Tucker, Under Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, updated the group on programs to help minority students succeed, and Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director of the National Institutes of Health, addressed reducing disparities in health care.



*U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (FL) welcomes Louisiana participants Maria Edwards and Giaconda Inman.*



*U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) greets Marciano and Martha Morales of Caprock Home Health Services in Lubbock, Texas.*

Other noted speakers included U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY), U.S. Senators Mel Martinez (FL), Lamar Alexander (TN), Mike Enzi (WY), and John Cornyn (TX). The opening reception featured the attendance of 16 U.S. Senators who welcomed their constituents to the policy conference.

Throughout the Summit, attendees networked and posed wide-ranging questions and comments to the high-profile speakers. Members of Congress and other policy experts listened to participants' concerns and provided updates on legislative action.

More than 150 attendees completed questionnaires to provide additional views and suggestions on national issues, and this feedback is highlighted in the newsletter. A legislative update also is included, and photographs from the Summit and additional information may be downloaded at <http://hutchison.senate.gov>.

Thank you for your leadership and participation and for making the Summit such a success.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

## 110th Congress Deliberates Security Issues and Other Important Legislation

In the weeks following the Summit, the U.S. Senate debated legislation to address several priority issues, including strengthening national security and expanding education in math, science, and engineering. At press time, the U.S. Congress is working to find a solution to comprehensive immigration reform and other key policy issues:

### IMMIGRATION REFORM AND BORDER SECURITY

- Recognizing a bipartisan desire to enact comprehensive immigration reform that secures U.S. borders and honors the country's proud history as a nation of immigrants, members of Congress are working with the Administration to craft a package that could be debated in the U.S. Senate as early as May 14. Many ideas are on the table, and the President has called on Congress to enact legislation that secures the border; creates a temporary worker program; holds employers accountable for workers they hire; resolves the status of millions of unauthorized immigrants already in the U.S., and helps newcomers assimilate into U.S. society.



*U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (FL) answers a participant's question during the Immigration Reform issue session.*

### EDUCATION/COMPETITIVENESS

- On April 25, 2007, the U.S. Senate approved bipartisan legislation **S. 761, the America COMPETES Act**, to make the United States more competitive in the global marketplace by increasing investment in research and expanding education in math, science, and engineering. It authorizes competitiveness grants to states to promote better coordination of elementary and secondary education with the knowledge and skills needed for success in post-secondary education, the workforce, and the U.S. Armed Forces. It increases research investment by doubling the authorized funding levels for the National Science Foundation (NSF) from approximately \$5.6 billion in fiscal year 2007 to \$11.2 billion in fiscal year 2011, and it strengthens the skills of thousands of math and science teachers through support for NSF teacher institutes for the 21st century.



*U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) visits with Texas Railroad Commissioner Victor Carrillo.*

### NATIONAL SECURITY/WAR ON TERROR

- To ensure that a critical component of U.S. national security efforts can continue, the President sent Congress his Defense budget for fiscal year 2008 on February 5, 2007, including a request for \$93.4 billion in emergency supplemental funding to cover equipment reconstitution and the cost of operations in the Global War on Terror for the remainder of fiscal year 2007. In late April, the U.S. House and U.S. Senate narrowly passed a \$124.2 billion supplemental spending measure which the President had promised to veto because it contained arbitrary timelines to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq without regard to conditions on the ground, as well as unrequested, excessive non-Defense spending. President Bush vetoed the bill on May 1, 2007, and Congress does not have the votes to override the veto. Congress must now work to craft a security supplemental that funds U.S. troops and protects national security without further delay.

### HEALTH CARE

- On April 20, 2007, President Bush signed into law a bipartisan measure, **H.R. 1132, the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program Reauthorization Act**, which makes critical cancer screening and post-screening diagnostic services available to low-income, uninsured, and underinsured women. At press time, the U.S. Senate was debating **S. 1082, the FDA Revitalization Act**, to expand drug safety authority for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

- On April 6, 2007, the Bureau of Labor Statistics released new jobs figures – 180,000 jobs created in March 2007. Since Congress passed pro-growth tax cuts in 2001 and 2003, more than 7.8 million jobs have been created, with nearly 2 million jobs created over the last 12 months. This robust economic activity has generated historic revenue growth and decreased the deficit.

- Ensuring continued economic growth requires eliminating barriers to trade and investment and opening new markets for U.S. workers, entrepreneurs, ranchers, and farmers. Last year, the U.S. exported a record \$1.4 trillion worth of goods and services – allowing Americans to enjoy lower prices, better jobs, and increased productivity. The President has called on Congress to extend the current fast-track **Trade Promotion Authority**, which expires on June 30, 2007, in order to expand free and fair trade.



*U.S. Senator George Voinovich (OH) meets with Ohio attendees Grace Ramos and Blanche Aviles Casey during the Welcome Reception.*



## 16 U.S. Senators Join Summit Attendees at the Congressional Welcome Reception



*U.S. Senator Mike Crapo (ID) meets with fellow Idahoans Alan Coffel and Elena Buxton.*



*U.S. Senator Bob Corker (TN) chats with Tennessee attendees Savannah and Vincent Ayub.*



*U.S. Senator Kit Bond (MO) welcomes Summit attendee Federico Sanchez from Missouri.*



*U.S. Senator Richard Burr (NC) confers with Oscar Marroquin, a participant from Texas.*



*U.S. Senator Craig Thomas (WY) and his wife Susan (left) greet Texas attendees Judge Eva Guzman and Judge Kem Frost.*



*U.S. Senator David Vitter (LA) visits with Louisiana attendees Dr. Juan and Ana Gershanik.*



*U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (KY) updates attendees on legislative priorities during his key remarks at the Welcome Reception.*



*U.S. Senator Tom Coburn (OK) talks with Oklahoman Jesse Guardiola and Texan Natacha Pelaez-Wagner.*



*U.S. Senator Larry Craig (ID) speaks with Maria Rave of Maine and an unidentified Summit participant.*



## Summit Participants Detail Top Legislative Priorities and Policy Suggestions

Thank you to the attendees who completed the Summit evaluation and policy questionnaire. This feedback guides the development of future Summit programs, and your ideas are helpful as Congress considers potential action on legislative issues this year.



The Health Care session takes audience questions. Left to right: Massey Villarreal, CEO, PTG Group; Dr. John Goodman, CEO, National Center for Policy Analysis; U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (WY); and Dr. Elias Zerhouni, Director, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Based on evaluations to date, the top six issues of importance to Summit attendees are:

1. Comprehensive Immigration Reform
2. Education Improvements
3. Border Security
4. Defense/War on Terror
5. Health Care Access/Affordability
6. Economic Growth/Job Creation

### Attendee Suggestions for Addressing Priority Issues

- “Properly fund and deploy border security forces and develop a comprehensive immigration plan that is humane and compassionate and provides a path to legitimacy (guest worker or citizenship).”
- “Move past partisan and extreme positions on immigration — there should be a way to regularize the status of undocumented [immigrants].”
- “Implement a rigorous guest visa card with thorough background check and zero-tolerance for any bad guys. Charge \$100 month per family — half to go to Social Security; the other half placed in a pool for states to draw from based on guest visa workers’ use of county hospitals and public education on a pro-rata basis.”
- “Set higher standards for K-12 education. Increase low-interest loans for higher education.”
- “Enact ‘drop-out prevention’ and ‘drop-out re-engagement’ programs for Hispanic youth.”
- “No Child Left Behind should continue to hold teachers and school administrators accountable.”
- “Ensure military funding that allows the services to purchase the best protective clothing for the military; ‘reward’ media that provide less biased views.”
- “Home care can reduce hospitalization by assisting the aged and disabled to maintain medication, therapy, and dietary objectives at greatly reduced costs.”
- “Pass a bill that reinstitutes Diploma Nurses Training and pay hospitals to participate and train the nurses.”
- “Eliminate the current tax system and establish a flat tax rate or a sales tax system.”
- “Enact Hispanic-specific business development support programs and corresponding appropriations.”



U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX) and U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (FL) commence the Welcome Reception.



During the Early Registration/Networking Coffee, Connecticut participants (from left) Eileen Lopez-Cordone, Lissette Andino, and Werner Oyanadel mingle and discuss issues.



U.S. Senator John Cornyn (TX) responds to an attendee’s question during the Economic Growth session.

## Issue Sessions Allow Hispanic Leaders to Discuss Immigration Reform, Education, Competitiveness, Health Care, Economic Growth, and Entrepreneurship



*U.S. Senator Mike Enzi (WY) moderates audience Q&A for the speakers during the Health Care session.*



*U.S. Department of Education Under Secretary Sara Martinez Tucker discusses issues with community leaders.*



*Dr. Emilio Gonzalez, Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Senator Mel Martinez (FL) field audience questions regarding immigration reform.*



*U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (TN) answers a participant's question on No Child Left Behind reauthorization during the Education session.*

## ACTION PLAN FOR STATE OR LOCAL SUMMITS

*Many attendees expressed a desire to network after the Summit. The registration list included in the Summit notebook features contact information for participants who agreed to have their information published. In addition, below is a sample checklist to assist in executing plans for a state or regional meeting to build on policy discussions.*

### PLANNING

- ☐ Identify advisors and planning team
- ☐ Develop mission statement and program
- ☐ Prioritize issues and draft agenda
- ☐ Prepare a budget
- ☐ Invite and confirm co-sponsors
- ☐ Finalize funding needs
- ☐ Coordinate marketing and media
- ☐ Reconcile expenses post-event

### LOGISTICS

- ☐ Evaluate event location needs
- ☐ Confirm meeting/hotel space
- ☐ Reserve transportation, photographer
- ☐ Finalize set-up, banquet, audio/visual and signage needs
- ☐ Recruit and assign volunteers to staff event
- ☐ Confirm final numbers for seating/food
- ☐ Walk-through layout at event site

### PROMOTION

- ☐ Identify sources for invitation lists
- ☐ Compile and finalize mailing lists
- ☐ Send invitations to potential attendees
- ☐ Process registrations and send confirmations
- ☐ Design and order attendee meeting materials
- ☐ Print/assemble issue materials, badges, etc.
- ☐ Organize special event for co-sponsors/VIPs

### PROGRAM

- ☐ Identify potential speakers/areas of expertise
- ☐ Coordinate program, panels, workshops, etc.
- ☐ Invite speakers and identify alternates
- ☐ Assign master of ceremonies
- ☐ Confirm speakers/moderators
- ☐ Finalize agenda/timeline for event
- ☐ Prepare introductions, moderator scripts
- ☐ Compile event feedback and follow-up